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REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Applicants have not amended the claims.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16, and 35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gunn et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0210402; hereinafter "Gunn"). Claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 21-26, and 30-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn in view of Do (U.S. Patent No. 6,417,869). Claims 5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn in view of Cirne (U.S. Patent No. 5,625,763). Claims 9, 10, 18-20, and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gunn in view of Do and Cirne.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in the following discussion.

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1 is directed to a display control device that includes a display control section adapted to display a plurality of button groups each having at least one button in a monitor connected thereto and to display any of the buttons displayed in the monitor in focused state, and a button change section including an in-group button changing operation unit adapted to change the button to be focused from one button to another within the button group, and an inter-group button changing operation unit adapted to change the button to be focused from a button of one button group to a button of another button group. When the button to be focused is changed by the inter-group button changing operation unit from the button of one button group to the button of another button group, the display control section displays a predetermined button of the button group changed in focused state.

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The present invention provides a display control device, which, when a button to be focused is changed by an inter-group button changing operation unit from a button of one button group to a button of another button group, the display control section displays a predetermined button of the button group changed in focused state. In this manner, the operation of the display may be easily and quickly comprehended.

II. THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

A. The Gunn Reference

The Examiner alleges that Gunn teaches the claimed invention of claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14-16, and 35. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Gunn does not teach or suggest every feature of the claimed invention.

That is, Gunn does not teach or suggest "*a button change section including an in-group button changing operation unit adapted to change the button to be focused from one button to another within the button group, and an inter-group button changing operation unit adapted to change the button to be focused from a button of one button group to a button of another button group*" and "*wherein, when the button to be focused is changed by the inter-group button changing operation unit from the button of one button group to the button of another button group, the display control section displays a predetermined button of the button group changed in focused state*", as recited in exemplary claim 1, and similarly recited in claims 17 and 26.

Gunn discloses a data entry display for a personal computing device. In particular, Gunn discloses a digital keyboard 28, which groups buttons according to frequency of use. The more central the position of a group of buttons, then the more frequently the buttons in

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that group have been used.

Gunn clearly does not teach or suggest a display control device, which, when a button to be focused is changed by an inter-group button changing operation unit from a button of one button group to a button of another button group, the display control section displays a predetermined button of the button group changed in focused state.

Indeed, Gunn does not appear to teach or suggest changing a focused state of any button at all, let alone displaying a predetermined button in a focused state when a button to be focused is changed by an inter-group button changing operation unit from a button of one button group to a button of another button group.

Furthermore, with respect to exemplary dependent claim 35, the Examiner appears to equate the relative positioning of groups within frequency related circles as disclosed by Gunn with the claimed change of focus. Contrary to this allegation, however, Gunn does not teach or suggest a focusing state that includes a cursor positioned at the button.

In the Response to Arguments section of the Office Action (see Office Action dated August 10, 2007 at pages 20-23) the Examiner alleges that each of the above features is disclosed in paragraphs [0125], [0128], and [0166] of Gunn. The Examiner, however, has clearly mischaracterized the teachings of Gunn.

That is, these passages in Gunn merely disclose a digital keyboard having three rings of characters, where the center ring includes the most commonly used character(s). A user may then use a digital pointer to select certain characters. By providing the characters in the arrangement of Gunn, an amount of movement of the digital pointer may be minimized (e.g., see Gunn at paragraph [0125]).

Gunn, however, does not teach or suggest a button change section including an in-

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group button changing operation unit adapted to change the button to be focused from one button to another within the button group, and an inter-group button changing operation unit adapted to change the button to be focused from a button of one button group to a button of another button group. Indeed, in Gunn, the user merely uses a digital pointer to select a character for entering data.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Gunn does not teach or suggest every feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

B. The Do and Cirne References

The Examiner alleges that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Do with Gunn to render obvious the claimed invention of claims 3, 4, 13, 17, 21-26, and 30-34. Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Cirne with Gunn to render obvious the claimed invention of claims 5 and 8. Furthermore, the Examiner alleges that a person of ordinary skill in the art would have combined Cirne and Do with Gunn to render obvious the claimed invention of claims 9, 10, 18-20, and 27-29. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that the alleged combinations of references do not teach or suggest every feature of the claimed invention.

Specifically, Applicants submit that claims 3-5, 8-10, 13, and 17-34 are allowable for similar reasons to those set forth above in section A.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections.

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III. FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-35, all the claims presently pending in the Application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the Application to be other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Date: October 10, 2007

Respectfully Submitted,


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I hereby certify that I am filing this paper via facsimile, to Group Art Unit 2173, at (571) 273-8300, on October 10, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

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